

B O R O U G H O F C O W B R I D G E .

A N N U A L R E P O R T O F T H E M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H - 1 9 6 4 .

COWBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1964.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Cowbridge Borough.

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1964 prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Board of Health.

The report deals with the birth rate, death rate and other vital statistics of the Borough compared with the country and the County of Glamorgan. It will be noted that the birth and death rates for the Borough are considerably lower than the country as a whole. The small population of the Borough and the effect of a small number of births or deaths on the statistics do not present a true picture of the position.

The report also deals with environmental matters which have a bearing upon the health of the inhabitants, and includes a reference to the new Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 which came into operation during the year.


I wish to thank the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors and Officials for their co-operation during the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

N. K. CONTRACTOR.

Medical Officer of Health.



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SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Cowbridge is an ancient Charter Borough. As early as 1091 the Normans walled in the area west of the Thaw and dominated its activities. In those early days most of the settlers were Normans or English. Special privileges were accorded to the inhabitants embodied in a service or charter by the lords of the manor and later by the Crown from the fourteenth century. The present charter dates from 1888.

Although of ancient origin Cowbridge's population has remained almost static for many years but since the end of World War II probably more house building has been carried out than ever before in a similar space of time. As a result there is now very little ground left in the Borough for development. Considerable development has also taken place around Cowbridge in the parish of Llanblethian with the Rural Area. The inhabitants of this area, and particularly farmers and country folk from the vale of Glamorgan, still come into Cowbridge for their shopping and business. All the principal Banks have full offices in the Borough; Solicitors, Architects, Accountants, Auctioneers and Estate Agents are all found in the Borough and the principal Crown Post Office is sited in the town delivering letters as far afield as Pendoylan and Wick in the areas of the Cardiff and Penybont Rural District respectively.

Public services such as sewerage, mains water, gas, electricity and post office telephones are available through the town.

The Borough is sited each side of the main London/Fishguard trunk road and the increased volume of traffic over the years has prompted the Glamorgan County Council to construct a By Pass to the North of the Town. Work on this project commenced in 1963 and was making very good progress at the end of the year. This new highway will take away from Cowbridge most of the traffic and there is every prospect that the Borough will revert to a pleasant country town.

There are a few small factories in the Town. Most of the inhabitants, however, find occupation outside the Borough, such projects as the construction of the Power Station at Aberthaw and the Royal Air Force Station at St. Athan finding employment for many of the inhabitants.

A list of the factories registered with the Council is as follows:-

1. Messrs. D. Brown & Sons Ltd., Printers.
2. Mr. A. Sanders, Boot Repairer.
3. Messrs. Arthur Jones & Sons Ltd., Builders Yard.
4. Messrs. Robert Thomas & Sons Ltd., do.
5. Mr. Frank Sanders (Cowbridge) Ltd., Garage Proprietor.
6. Messrs. West End Garage.
7. Glamorgan County Council, Builders Yard.

SECTION "A".

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	84
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate book	337
Sum represented by the penny rate	£156
Rateable value of the district	£39,164
Population (Register General's estimate)	1,140

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births.

Still Births.

Births Registered - 1964. Male Female Total.

Legitimate live births	6	6	12
Illegitimate live births	-	-	-
	6	6	12

Male Female Total

Legitimate still births	1	Nil	1
Illegitimate still births	-	-	-
	1	Nil	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.

Birth Rate Cowbridge Borough (adjusted)	10.64
Birth Rate for England and Wales	18.40
Birth Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan (adjusted)	18.19
Birth Rate for Urban Areas in the Administrative County	18.29

Infant Mortality.

Number of deaths under 1 year of age	Nil
Infant mortality rate for Cowbridge per 1,000 births	Nil
Infant mortality for England and Wales	20.00
Infant mortality for Administrative County of Glamorgan	26.66
Infant mortality for Urban Areas in Glamorgan	28.57
Still Births (1)	76.92

Death Rate per 1,000 Population.

Death Rate for Cowbridge Borough (adjusted)	10.04
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.30
Death Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan	13.82
Death Rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan	14.22

Causes of Death 1964.

<u>Disease</u>	Male	Female	Total
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	-	1
Coronary Disease, Angina	2	1	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	1	1
Other Heart Diseases	-	1	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	2	2
All other Accidents	1	-	1
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Total	4	7	11
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SECTION "B".

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

(a) Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. N.K. Contractor M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health. (Also Medical Officer to the Cardiff and Cowbridge Rural District Councils and Medical Officer South East Division, Glamorgan).

(b) Public Health Inspector.

Hubert Thomas M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector. (Also Public Health Inspector, Cowbridge Rural District Council).

Committee Dealing with Health Matters.

The Monthly Meetings of the Council and Standing Committees both deal with health matters as the occasion demands.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Area Ambulance Services are administered from the Ambulance Control Station, Oak Street, Aberkenfig, the telephone number of which is Aberkenfig 303.

In addition to the vehicles at the Ambulance Control Station, one ambulance is stationed at the Fire Station, Cowbridge and another at the Ambulance Sub-Station, Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major. The County Council propose to construct an ambulance station at Cowbridge.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals or nursing homes within the area. Infectious cases are usually admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Cefn Hirgoed although under regionalisation specific cases might be admitted to other more convenient hospitals.

Medical and surgical cases are admitted to any of the Board's Hospitals in Bridgend and Cardiff.

Maternity cases usually enter the Bridgend or Cardiff Hospitals.

Ear, nose and throat diseases in children under 15 years of age are dealt with in the Children's Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, Cowbridge Road, Ely, Cardiff. In addition, some patients receive treatment at the Bridgend Hospital. Some children suffering from squint can also receive treatment at the Orthoptic Clinic, and those cases needing operative treatment are admitted to the Children's Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital as above.

Laboratory Facilities,

All pathological specimens are examined at the Ministry of Health's Public Laboratory at Cardiff and chemical analyses are carried out by the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

A hard water of high bacterial quality is provided by the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board throughout the Borough.

With one exception all properties in the Borough are connected to these mains.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths in the Borough.

Schools.

There are two schools in the area; the Cowbridge Grammar School and Y Bontfaen Elementary School.

Each of these schools is provided with water closets and mains water and all are connected to the Borough sewerage scheme.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Thaw passes through the town and since its diversion in 1958 no flooding has taken place in the Borough.

The river is free from pollution.

HOUSING.

- (a) New Council Houses. No new Council Houses were erected during 1964. The Council own land upon which they intend to erect further houses. The Council's estates remain as follows:-

Broadway	12
Borough Close	36
Cae Stumpie	14
Church Street & Southgate	3
The Butts & Bush House	4
Town Hall	1
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Total	70
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- (b) Private Enterprise. 3 houses were completed by private enterprise during 1964 and one was in progress at the end of the year and plans for 7 further houses and flats were approved.
- (c) Selection of Tenants. Tenants for Council Houses are selected by a point's system and this works well. The home conditions of applicants are verified by a visit by the Public Health Inspector who reports upon the points awarded to the Council. The final selection is made by the housing committee.
- (d) Demolition or Closure of Unfit Houses. No demolition or closing orders were made during the year.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

- (a) Discretionary Grants. The following grants were made during the year:-

<u>Property.</u>	<u>Synopsis of Work.</u>	<u>Grant.</u>
2 Croft Terrace	Bathroom etc.	£347
21 Eastgate	Bathroom etc.	£400
27 High Street	Bathroom etc.	£194

- (b) Standard Grants. One grant only was made during the year as follows:-

Mittagong, Eastgate Street Grant £116 15s 4d

A total of 24 discretionary grants and 8 standard grants have been made under the Housing Acts.

Plans.

The following plans were submitted for approval under the Building Byelaws:-

(a)	New houses or flats	7
(b)	Conversion of premises into houses	Nil
(c)	New business premises	1
(d)	Additions or alterations to houses or business premises	10
(e)	Stores and garages	3
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Total		21
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PUBLIC CLEANSING.

- (a) Street Cleansing. The main highway through the town is cleansed by the Glamorgan County Highways Department who employ a mechanical street and pavement sweeper for that purpose. The unclassified roads are cleansed by the Borough roadman. Street litter bins are provided at certain points in the town.
- (b) Refuse Bins. Almost all properties in the town are provided with properly constructed refuse bins. The Public Health Inspector takes informal action for the provision of bins as the occasion demands.
- (c) Cesspool Emptying. The one remaining property with cesspool drainage is cleansed by the District Council's vacuum cesspool emptier four time a year at the cost of the Borough Council.
- (d) House Refuse Collection and Disposal. All food premises have a twice weekly collection and private dwellings and other premises have a collection once weekly. This service is carried out by the Rural District Council at the cost of the Borough. Disposal is arranged at the District Council's central refuse disposal site at Llanharan.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The Borough Council share a sewage disposal works with the District Council at the Lake Farm, Near Cowbridge (within the area of the Rural District). The maintenance of these works is supervised by the Rural District Council but the maintenance costs are divided between the Borough and District Council.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The air in the Borough is relatively pure there being no factories or works within the area or in the neighbourhood.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960.

One caravan was licenced within the Borough during the year. The conditions were satisfactory but the Council later rehoused the occupiers and the caravan was removed from the site.

DOMESTIC PESTS.

- (a) Rodent Control. Arrangements are made with the Rural District Council for the use of their rodent operative and the Borough Council pay an inclusive charge for his services and the material used. Warfarin is now exclusively used and has proved to be satisfactory and reasonably safe to use.

Details of the works carried out during 1964 are set out below:-

Type of Property	Properties in Area	Inspections	Minor Infestations of rats and mice found	Treatments carried out
Local Authority	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dwellinghouses	306	51	19	19
Business Premises	103	35	7	7
Agricultural	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	412	86	26	26

DOMESTIC PESTS (CONT).

- (b) Other Pests. The Public Health Inspector gives advice where required on modern methods of eradicating domestic pests.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

With the exception of the premises referred to under the heading "Public Cleansing" all dwellings and business premises in the Borough are connected to the Public Sewer.

MILK SUPPLY.

All milk sold in the Borough is either Pasteurised, T.T. (Pasteurised) or Tuberculin Tested. There are no registered dairies in the town but three retailers, with dairies in other districts, retail milk in the Borough.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955.

Routine inspections are made of premises handling food for sale in the Borough and the attention of occupiers is drawn to any infringements of the Hygiene Regulations.

The number of such premises and food handlers is too small to arrange classes.

All the licenced premises in the town have satisfactory sanitation connected to the Public Sewer with arrangements for glass washing in or adjacent to the public bars.

ICE CREAM.

No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough. Seven retailers are registered with the Council and all sell ice cream manufactured by one or other of the principal manufacturers. No samples were taken during 1964.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS.

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the Borough. The four butchers purchase their supplies from a wholesaler or have their animals slaughtered at the Public Slaughterhouse at Bridgend where the Public Health Inspector of that area carries out an inspection and marks the meat before it leaves the premises.

On occasions meat is found to be unfit in butchers shops. A certificate for the meat condemned is given and arrangements made for its removal to a licenced dealer who has a modern digesting plant where decomposed or unfit food is satisfactorily sterilised before being used as animal feeding stuff or as a fertiliser.

The amount of food condemned during 1964 is as follows:-

Frozen ox kidney	8 lbs.
Hind Quarter ox Beef	-
(Home killed)	<u>88 lbs.</u>
	96 lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938: ADULTERATIONS ETC.

The following samples were taken in this area by Mr. W.D. Lewis the County Public Health Inspector during the year ended 31st December, 1964:-

Baking Powder	2	Milk	5
Cake Sponge Pastry Mix etc.	2	Rice	3
Condensed Milk	1	Soft Drinks	2
Flavouring	1	Tapioca	1
Jam	2	Olive Oil	<u>1</u>
		Total	20

SHEEP AND CATTLE MARKET.

The Borough Council own a sheep and cattle market which is let on leave to two firms of auctioneers. Auctions are held on Mondays throughout the year and also on fair days and occasional sales of store stock. New cattle pens and covered sale ring were provided in 1957. The Borough Council purchased a field near the Market with a view to extensions in the near future. The market has a public water supply and is connected to the public sewer. Electric light is available for loading of vehicles in darkness and a lorry wash and car park is sited at the rear of the market.

SHOPS.

Improvement to the fronts of shop and office premises till continues and in most cases this work has been carried out to fit in with the character of the ancient borough.

CINEMAS.

There is no cinema within the Borough.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act came into force on the 1st August, 1964 and required all Offices and Shops employing persons for more than 21 hours each week to register with the local authority.

The Act provides for the health, safety and welfare of the employee and includes such factors as cleanliness; overcrowding; temperature; ventilation; lighting; sanitary conveniences; washing facilities; drinking water; accommodation for clothing; sitting facilities; seats for sedentary workers; eating facilities; the condition of floors, passages and stairs; danger from machines; noise and vibration; prohibition of heavy work by certain classes of employees; first aid facilities; and fire precautions.

The Ministry produced several regulations and circulars on guidance to inspectors.

The following registrations were made with the Borough Council:-

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Number Registered</u>	<u>Number of persons employed</u>
Offices	18	78
Retail Shops	19	50
Catering Establishments	<u>6</u>	<u>23</u>
Total	<u>43</u>	<u>151</u>

Of this number 62 were males and 89 females.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above Act during the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases.

Three cases of measles only were notified during the year. All cases were nursed at home.

Tuberculosis.

The position at January and December 1964 was as follows:-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On register 1st January, 1964	2	1	-	-	3
On register 31st December, 1964	3	1	-	-	4

Additions to Register.

One male pulmonary case was notified in the area during the year and his name was added to the register.

Housing Conditions.

All the cases of tuberculosis are satisfactorily housed and it was not necessary to draw the attention of the Council to any matter during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

The report on the action taken in connection with Factories in the area is set out below:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Notices
Factories in which:- Section 1 (Cleanliness)) Section 2 (Overcrowding)) Section 3 (Temperature)) Section 4 (Ventilation)) Section 6 (Drainage of Floors)) are enforced by the Council	1	2	Nil
Factories in which:- Section 7 (Sanitary Conveniences) only in enforced by the Council	8	20	1
Total	9	22	1

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR 1964.

	Inspections	Preliminary Notices	Statutory Notices
Drainage and Sewerage	65	Nil	Nil
Meat, Foods and Food Premises	42	3	Nil
Milk and Dairies	3	Nil	Nil
Housing	44	5	Nil
Public Health Act	31	2	Nil
Infectious Disease	4	Nil	Nil
Factories and Workshops	22	1	Nil
House Refuse	59	Nil	Nil
Water Supplies	4	Nil	Nil
Works in Progress	71	Nil	Nil
Miscellaneous	48	Nil	Nil
Total	393	11	Nil

